

The Scuttlebutt Chronicles

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VSO Quarterly Newsletter

Volume No. 7, July, August, September 2020

Message from the VSO: Army Veteran, Celestina Traver M.A.

First, I hope all is well. It has been a crazy last 3 months for all of us. Our office has been closed to foot traffic per the governor, but that did not stop us from coming together as a team and continue to file service connected and non-service connected claims. As most of you have heard, we are now filing claims using finger.ink. Those with a smart phone can sign your claim right from your home or assisted living facility. Second, We have finally been given the OK to open. We can only have 4 in the lobby at a time so we are asking for everyone to call and speak to your Vet Rep and set up a time to meet with them here in the office. Please wear a mask. Thank you all for being so understanding and patient during this time of transition.



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VETERANS BENEFITS BANKING PROGRAM



Get paid safer, faster, and with less fees

Veterans Banking Benefit Program (VBBP) provides all Veterans a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to receive and manage VA monetary benefits by depositing funds directly into their new or existing bank accounts offered by participating banks.



Safe



Reliable

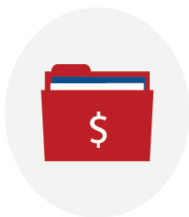


Inexpensive



Secure your financial future

Participating VBBP banks will offer eligible Veterans federally insured and regulated financial products, services, and education that can be tailored to their needs and families.



Products



Services



Education

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND A LIST OF PARTICIPATING
BANKS →**

■ Go to **www.benefits.va.gov/banking**
■ or **www.veteransbenefitsbanking.org**

Call us at 530-225-5616

Or go to vso.co.shasta.ca.us

VJ Day August 14th 1945- Beginning

Prologue to war

The European war presented the Japanese with tempting opportunities. After the Nazi attack on Russia in 1941, the Japanese were torn between German urgings to join the war against the Soviets and their natural inclination to seek richer prizes from the European colonial territories to the south. In 1940 Japan occupied northern Indochina in an attempt to block access to supplies for the Chinese Nationalists, and in July 1941 it announced a joint protectorate with Vichy France over the whole colony. This opened the way for further moves into Southeast Asia.

The United States reacted to the occupation of Indochina by freezing Japanese assets and embargoing oil. The Japanese now faced the choices of either withdrawing from Indochina, and possibly China, or seizing the sources of oil production in the Dutch East Indies. Negotiations with Washington were initiated by the second Konoe cabinet. Konoe was willing to withdraw from Indochina, and he sought a personal meeting with Roosevelt, hoping that any U.S. concessions or favors would strengthen his hand against the military. But the State Department refused to agree to such a meeting without prior Japanese concessions. Having failed in his negotiations, Konoe resigned in October 1941 and was immediately succeeded by his war minister, General Tojo Hideki. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Hull rejected Japan's "final offer". Japan would withdraw from Indochina after China had come to terms in return for U.S. promises to resume oil shipments, cease aid to China, and unfreeze Japanese assets. With Japan's decision for war made, the negotiators received instructions to continue to negotiate, but preparations for the opening strike against the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor were already in motion. Japan's war aims were to establish a "new order in East Asia," built on a "coprosperity" concept that placed Japan at the center of an economic bloc consisting of Manchuria, Korea, and North China that would draw on the raw materials of the rich colonies of Southeast Asia, while inspiring these to friendship and alliance by destroying their previous masters. In practice, "East Asia for the Asiatics," the slogan that headed the campaign, came to mean "East Asia for Japan."

Early successes

The attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7 [December 8 in Japan], 1941) achieved complete surprise and success. It also unified American opinion and determination to see the war through to a successful conclusion. The Japanese had expected that, once they fortified their new holdings, a reconquest would be so expensive in lives and treasure that it would discourage the "soft" democracies. Instead, the U.S. fleet was rebuilt with astonishing speed, and the chain of defenses was breached before the riches of the newly conquered territories could be effectively tapped by Japan.



VJ Day 1945- Remembrance

The first years of the war brought Japan great success. In the Philippines, Japanese troops occupied Manila in January 1942, although Corregidor held out until May; Singapore fell in February, and the Dutch East Indies and Rangoon (Burma) in early March. The Allies had difficulty maintaining communications with Australia, and British naval losses promised the Japanese navy further freedom of action. Tōjō grew in confidence and popularity and began to style himself somewhat in the manner of a fascist leader. But the U.S. Navy had not been permanently driven from the South Pacific. The Battle of Midway in June 1942 cost the Japanese fleet four aircraft carriers and many seasoned pilots, and the battle for Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons ended with Japanese withdrawal in February 1943.

After Midway, Japanese naval leaders secretly concluded that Japan's outlook for victory was poor. When the fall of Saipan in July 1944 brought U.S. bombers within range of Tokyo, the Tōjō cabinet was replaced by that of Koiso Kuniaki. Koiso formed a supreme war-direction council designed to link the cabinet and the high command. Many in government realized that the war was lost, but none had a program for ending the war that was acceptable to the military. There were also grave problems in breaking the news to the Japanese people, who had been told only of victories. Great firebombing raids in 1945 brought destruction to every major city except the old capital of Kyōto; but the generals were bent on continuing the war, confident that a major victory or protracted battle would help gain honorable terms. The Allied talk of unconditional surrender provided a good excuse to continue the fight.

In February 1945, the emperor met with a group of senior statesmen to discuss steps that might be taken. When U.S. landings were made on Okinawa in April, the Koiso government fell. The problem of the new premier, Admiral Suzuki Kantarō, was not whether to end the war but how best to do it. The first plan advanced was to ask the Soviet Union, which was still at peace with Japan, to intercede with the Allies. The Soviet government had agreed, however, to enter the war; consequently, its reply was delayed while Soviet leaders participated in the Potsdam Conference in July. The Potsdam Declaration issued on July 26 offered the first ray of hope with its statement that Japan would not be "enslaved as a race, nor destroyed as a nation."

The end of the war

Atomic bombs largely destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively. On August 8, the Soviet Union declared war and the next day marched into Manchuria, where the Kwantung Army could offer only token resistance. The Japanese government attempted to gain as its sole condition for surrender a qualification for the preservation of the imperial institution; after the Allies agreed to respect the will of the Japanese people, the emperor insisted on surrender. The Pacific war came to an end on August 14 (August 15 in Japan). The formal surrender was signed on September 2 in Tokyo Bay aboard the battleship USS *Missouri*.

Missouri: Japanese surrender

Japanese representatives, including Foreign Minister Shigemitsu Mamoru (with walking cane) and Gen. Umezu Yoshijiro (front right), on board the USS *Missouri* during the surrender ceremonies, September 2, 1945.



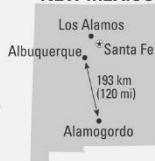
THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMBS

The first atomic bomb was built in Los Alamos, New Mexico, during World War II under a top secret U.S. government program called the Manhattan Project. Los Alamos was approved as the site for the main atomic-bomb scientific laboratory on November 25, 1942, by Brigadier General Leslie R. Groves and physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer.

THE FIRST TEST

Code name: Trinity
Location: Alamogordo, New Mexico
Date: July 16, 1945, 5:29:45 AM
Bomb name: *Gadget*
Bomb type: plutonium-239 implosion
TNT equivalent: 21,000 tons

NEW MEXICO



HIROSHIMA

Date: August 6, 1945, 8:15 AM
Bomb name: *Little Boy*
Bomb type: gun-assembly
Deployment: B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*, airburst at 580 m (1,900 ft) above the city
TNT equivalent: 15,000 tons (estimated)
Estimated casualties: 140,000 by year's end

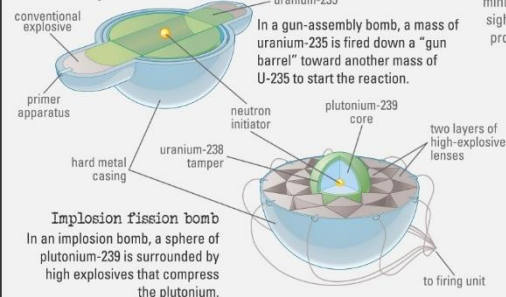


BOMB CUTAWAYS

For an atomic bomb to explode, a nuclear chain reaction must start.

Gun-assembly fission bomb

In a gun-assembly bomb, a mass of uranium-235 is fired down a "gun barrel" toward another mass of U-235 to start the reaction.



Implosion fission bomb

In an implosion bomb, a sphere of plutonium-239 is surrounded by high explosives that compress the plutonium.

The B-29 *Bockscar* spent 45 minutes over Kokura without sighting its aim point. It then proceeded to its secondary target, Nagasaki.



NAGASAKI

Date: August 9, 1945, 11:02 AM
Bomb name: *Fat Man*
Bomb type: implosion
Deployment: B-29 bomber *Bockscar*, airburst at 500 m (1,650 ft) above the city
TNT equivalent: 21,000 tons (estimated)
Estimated casualties: 70,000 by year's end



August 14th - National Navajo Code Talkers Day

July 28, 1982, U.S. President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating Aug. 14, 1982 as National Navajo Code Talkers Day.

The proclamation stated that the day was “dedicated to all members of the Navajo Nation and to all Native Americans who gave their special talents and their lives so that others might live.”

Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, Iwo Jima: the Navajo code talkers took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. They served in all six Marine divisions, Marine Raider battalions and Marine parachute units, transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their native language a code that the Japanese never broke.

The idea to use Navajo for secure communications came from Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos and one of the few non-Navajos who spoke their language fluently. Johnston, reared on the Navajo reservation, was a World War I veteran who knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He also knew that Native American languages notably Choctaw had been used in World War I to encode messages. Johnston believed Navajo answered the military requirement for an undecipherable code because Navajo is an unwritten language of extreme complexity. Its syntax and tonal qualities, not to mention dialects, make it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure and training. It has no alphabet or symbols, and is spoken only on the Navajo lands of the American Southwest. One estimate indicates that less than 30 non-Navajos, none of them Japanese, could understand the language at the outbreak of World War II.

Early in 1942, Johnston met with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as code. Johnston staged tests under simulated combat conditions, demonstrating that Navajos could encode, transmit, and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds. Machines of the time required 30 minutes to perform the same job. Convinced, Vogel recommended to the Commandant of the Marine Corps that the Marines recruit 200 Navajos.

In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp. Then, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, this first group created the Navajo code. They developed a dictionary and numerous words for military terms. The dictionary and all code words had to be memorized during training.

Once a Navajo code talker completed his training, he was sent to a Marine unit deployed in the Pacific theater. The code talkers' primary job was to talk, transmitting information on tactics and troop movements, orders and other vital battlefield communications over telephones and radios. They also acted as messengers, and performed general Marine duties.

Praise for their skill, speed and accuracy accrued throughout the war. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. Those six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error.



In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines. From 375 to 420 of those trained as code talkers; the rest served in other capacities.



Navajo remained potentially valuable as code even after the war. For that reason, the code talkers, whose skill and courage saved both American lives and military engagements, only recently earned recognition from the Government and the public.



The Navajo Code Talker's Dictionary-
When a Navajo code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. The code talker first had to translate each Navajo word into its English equivalent. Then he used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word. Thus, the Navajo words "wol-la-chee" (ant), "be-la-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be "tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-keh-di- glini (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)."



Most letters had more than one Navajo word representing them. Not all words had to be spelled out letter by letter. The developers of the original code assigned Navajo words to represent about 450 frequently used military terms that did not exist in the Navajo language. Several examples: "besh- lo" (iron fish) meant "submarine," "dah-he-tih-hi" (hummingbird) meant "fighter plane" and "debeh-li-zine" (black street) meant "squad."

Chester Nez, the last surviving member of the 'Original Navajo Code Talkers' died at the age of 93 , April 21st 2015.



The Badge of Military Merit/The Purple Heart



At his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, on August 7, 1782, General George Washington devised two new badges of distinction for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. To signify loyal military service, he ordered a chevron to be worn on the left sleeve of the uniform coat for the rank and file who had completed three years of duty "with bravery, fidelity, and good conduct"; two chevrons signified six years of service. The second badge, for "any singularly meritorious Action," was the "Figure of a Heart in Purple Cloth or Silk edged with narrow Lace or Binding."

This device, the Badge of Military Merit, was affixed to the uniform coat above the left breast and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge and to have his name and regiment inscribed in a Book of Merit. The Badge specifically honored the lower ranks, where decorations were unknown in contemporary European Armies. As Washington intended, the road to glory in a patriot army is thus open to all."

The award fell into disuse following the Revolution and was not proposed again officially until after World War I. On October 10, 1927, Army Chief of Staff General Charles P. Summerall directed that a draft bill be sent to Congress "to revive the Badge of Military Merit."

For reasons unclear, the bill was withdrawn and action on the case ceased on January 3, 1928, but the Office of The Adjutant General was instructed to file all materials collected for possible future use. The rough sketch accompanying this proposal showed a circular disc medal with a concave center in which a relief heart appeared. The reverse carried the legend: For Military Merit. A number of private interests sought to have the medal reinstituted in the Army. One of these was the board of directors of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum in New York.

On January 7, 1931, Summerall's successor, General Douglas MacArthur, confidentially reopened work on a new design, involved the Washington Commission of Fine Arts. His object was medal issued on the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.

Miss Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quartermaster General, was named to redesign the newly revived medal, which became known as the Purple Heart. Using general specifications provided to her, Ms. Will created the design sketch for the present medal of the Purple Heart. Her obituary, in the February 8, 1975 edition of *The Washington Post* newspaper, reflects her many contributions to military heraldry.

The Commission of Fine Arts solicited plaster models from three leading sculptors for the medal, selecting that of John R. Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint in May 1931.

As described in Army Regulations of November 10, 1941, the design consisted of a purple enameled heart within a bronze border showing a relief profile of George Washington in Continental uniform. Surmounting the enameled shield is Washington's family coat of arms, the same used by the heart shape and the coat of arms of the obverse is repeated without enamel; within the heart lies the inscription, For Military Merit, with space beneath for the engraved name of the recipient.



The War Department announced the new award in General Order No. 3, February 22, 1932: By Order of the Secretary War: Douglas MacArthur, General, Chief of Staff:

By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements. The association of the Purple Heart with wounds or fatality suffered in the line of meritorious service also stems from this time. Eligibility for the new award was defined to include:

- Those in possession of a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate issued by the Commander-in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. The Certificates had to be exchanged for the Purple Heart or the award and Oak Leaf Clusters as appropriate. This preserved the ideal of presenting the award for military merit and loyal service.
- Those authorized by Army Regulations 600-95 to wear wound chevrons. These men also had to apply for the new award.
- Those not authorized wound chevrons prior to February 22, 1931, but who would otherwise be authorized them under stipulations of Army Regulations.

Revisions to AR 600-45 at the time, defining conditions of the award, elaborated upon the "singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity service" required. "A wound which necessitates treatment by a medical officer and which is received in action with an enemy, may, in the judgment of the commander authorized to make the award, be construed as resulting from a singularly meritorious act of essential service." War Department Circular No 6 dated February 22, 1931, carried the same instructions.

The Navy Department at this time saw no reason to authorize the Purple Heart for its officers and men. The Department maintained that the award was **"purely an army decoration."**

No record survives today of the identity of the first individual to revive the revived and redesigned Purple Heart. Local posts of the American Legion held ceremonies to honor recipients, and it was also common to invite the Adjutant General of state National Guards to preside over the ceremonies and present awards, but the practice was nowhere standard.

Developments concerning the Purple Heart after 1931 served to define further eligibility requirements for the award and to identify it even more closely with bloodshed or loss of life in the nation's service.

In Executive Order 9277 of December 3, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt extended the use of the award to the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard after December 6, 1941, and established a uniform application of standards for the award in the Army and the Navy.

President Harry S. Truman, November 12, 1952, retroactively extended Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard eligibility for the Purple Heart back to April 5, 1917, to cover World War I.

President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 11016 on April 25, 1962, extending eligibility as well to "any civilian national of the United States, who while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force..., has been, or may hereafter be, wounded."

Current eligibility and conditions for the award are defined in Army Regulations 600-8-22.

The Purple Heart is ranked immediately behind the bronze star in order of precedence among the personal awards; however, it is generally acknowledged to be among the most aesthetically pleasing of American awards and decorations.



NEVER FORGET

9-11-01

Impossible as it may seem, our collective memory of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is starting to fade.

Even for those who stood in horror as the towers fell 18 years ago, the events have lost much of their visceral sting, the inevitable consequence of time and a world that doesn't let us linger on much for long.

And there is now a whole generation, some of them high school graduates now, that has been born since that terrible Tuesday. To them, 9/11 is history, but for a relative few out there, the memories of 9/11 can never fade — circumstances just won't allow it. Today, the anniversary, is their day.

There are of course the nearly 3,000 people who died directly in the attacks, as well as their loved ones, for whom the Sept. 11 anniversary is not only a day of national mourning but of personal and very public tragedy.

Wives and husbands, sons and daughters, mothers, fathers and friends were lost so suddenly. The stories that came out later that are still coming out today of final phone calls and messages, and of tremendous acts of humanity and selfless courage aboard the airplanes and in the burning buildings, should be told and remembered.

Today is for the first responders too, who rushed to the scene, and everyone who worked for weeks in the rubble, only to get sick from exposure to harmful chemicals at the site. Hundreds have died since of cancer and cardiovascular illness. Thousands more are expected to develop diseases as a result of their exposure at Ground Zero; experts predict the death toll as a result of the aftermath to one day exceed that of the attacks themselves.

But today, the anniversary of the attacks, is about the people for whom Sept. 11, 2001, is far less academic, political or abstract.

For them, the anniversary is about personal loss, and they are forever in our thoughts.

September 20th

MISSING MAN TABLE

Honoring our missing veterans
who are with us in spirit.

Table Set Up

The Table is Round to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.

The Tablecloth is White symbolizes the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The Single Red Rose reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and the loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The Vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A Slice of Lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A Pinch of Salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The Glass is Inverted to symbolize their inability to share this event with us.

The Chair is Empty because they are missing.

We will never forget the brave men and women who answered our nations call to serve and served the cause of freedom.



Visit-

www.pow-miafamilies.org

To see how YOU can help





Happy Birthday

Celebrating 225 Years



August 4th 2020

Every year, August 4 is celebrated as the U.S. Coast Guard Birthday, commemorating the military organization for its valor and discipline. Since 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard has kept the nation's waterways safe, playing a critical role in national security.

The U.S. Coast Guard patrols our coasts for drug smugglers, human trafficking and both domestic and international terrorism. As the bad guys (and girls) have gotten more savvy with technology, the Coast Guard has developed sophisticated, effective technology to combat crimes on the water and at our ports. It's a 24/7 job. Today, let's give the U.S. Coast Guard the love it deserves.

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y



EST

1947

U.S. AIR FORCE

T O T H E U N I T E D S T A T E S A I R F O R C E

September 18th 2020

The Air Force Birthday is a holiday celebrated on September 18th annually to commemorate the day when the Air Force was officially separated from the United States Army in 1947. Prior to that year, the Air Force was a part of the Army and was known as the Army Air Force. However, lawmakers believed that it needed to be made into its own separate entity. And now, it's a holiday that's been commemorated by Air Force personnel, veterans and their families for the past 70+ years.

September is ...



Suicide Prevention Month

*Access prevention and awareness resources for
Servicemembers, Military Families
and Community Members here!*



National Suicide Prevention
VA- Mental Health
Shasta County Mental Health
Mobile Crisis Outreach

1-800-273-8255 Press 1
530-226-7675
530-225-5252
530-238-7133

Warning signs of suicide

- *Talking about wanting to die
- *Looking for ways to die
- *Talking about feeling hopeless and having no purpose
- *Talking about feeling trapped or being in unbearable pain
- *Talking about being a burden to others
- *Increasing use of alcohol or drugs
- *Acting anxious or agitated, or behaving recklessly
- *Sleeping too little or too much
- *Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- *Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- *Displaying mood swings

Best practices to keep in mind

- *Remain calm
- *Listen more than you speak
- *Maintain eye contact
- *Act with confidence
- *Don't argue
- *Use open body language
- *Limit questions to casual information gathering
- *Use supportive and encouraging comments
- *Be as honest and upfront as possible

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/suicide-prevention>

UPDATES - FYI - DID YOU HEAR – BTW



VA national cemeteries resume committal and memorial services halted by the COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON — U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries will resume committal services starting June 9 in all but two VA national cemeteries.

VA national cemeteries will contact families who were unable to hold a committal service due to the COVID-19 pandemic to arrange memorial services for their loved ones beginning in July.

"During the last 10 weeks VA national cemeteries have continued performing our essential mission — to inter Veterans and eligible family members," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We believe we have a robust set of measures in place that will allow us to conduct committal and memorial services while protecting the health and safety of Veterans, their families and our team members who serve them."

While VA is eager to resume normal operations, the department's national cemeteries have remained open for interments and visitation throughout the pandemic. However, as a matter of health and safety, committal services and military funeral honors have been deferred since March 23.

Interments scheduled on or after June 9, will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. At Calverton and Long Island national cemeteries, that option will be available starting June 22, provided state and local guidance permit. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

VA national cemeteries will continue adherence to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the number of individuals attending committal services, practicing physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensuring all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encouraging frequent use of hand sanitizer and asking sick individuals to stay home. The number of permitted attendees will vary based on state and local guidelines for gathering sizes provided the facility can accommodate increased attendees while maintaining physical distancing. Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service later when all restrictions have been lifted.

Memorial services for Veterans and eligible family members who were interred without a committal service between **March 23 and June 8 will commence in July.**



VA resumes in-person Compensation and Pension exams at select locations

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it will resume in-person Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams in select locations across the country.

VA Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) contracted medical examination providers will immediately begin contacting Veterans in select locations with claims pending C&P exams to schedule exam appointments.

"Resuming C&P exams allows VA to continue delivering the benefits our Veterans have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We're keeping the safety of Veterans and our medical providers as our highest priority and have put a robust set of measures in place to ensure medical providers can safely conduct these examinations."

Safety measures include COVID-19 screening for Veterans and employees, physical distancing and

UPDATES - FYI - DID YOU HEAR – BTW

Coronavirus Scams

Scammers thrive in crises. The Federal Trade Commission is reporting a surge in fraud complaints. Bad actors are leveraging fear and shortages to bilk consumers out of millions and to harvest information for identity fraud.

Help your loved one avoid scammers by following these tips.

Research requests for donations. Verify the nonprofit on Guidestar.org, the registry that provides financial reporting on all registered 501c3 organizations. Be especially wary if the request is “urgent” and for payment by gift card or prepaid debit card.

Ignore social media ads, texts, or emails selling cures or vaccines. Relief is months, maybe a year or more away. Look for an announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and get a prescription from the doctor.

Hard-to-find supplies. From gloves to toilet paper, surgical masks to hand sanitizers. Amazon and Facebook are working hard to block gougers and bogus sellers. Pay attention to the star ratings of sellers and look for complaints of supplies never being received.

Stock deals. Many fraudsters offer great investment deals on stock that is “going to take off” with the latest cure, test, or vaccine. Unfortunately, they have bought the stock already. When demand drives the price up, they sell. The price then plummets and investors get stuck with the loss.

Hang up on robocalls asking for money or information. The federal government never uses this method of communication. Neither do other credible organizations. It’s the medium of scammers.

Do not click on emailed links or download files from organizations you do not know. Many fraudsters are looking to insert malware on your computer to harvest information for identity theft. Even if the email seems genuine and the website looks like a government or reputable organization, do a Google search to find the real domain name. For example, the Red Cross has a mirror site at redcross.net, for instance. The actual address for the Red Cross is redcross.org.

This Tip was provided by Shining Care

<https://shiningcare.org/newsletter/>



Important Dates to Remember:

July:

7/04/2020 Independence Day

7/26/2020 Armed Forces Unification Day

7/29/2020 Anniversary of ARMY Chaplain Corps

August:

8/04/2020 Coast Guard Birthday

8/07/2020 Purple Heart Day

8/14/2020 VJ Day

8/16/2020 National Airborne Day

8/15-8/21/2020 National Aviation Week

8/29/2020 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

September:

9/03/2020 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

9/07/2020 Labor Day

9/11/2020 9/11 Remembrance

9/18/2020 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

9/18/2020 Air Force Birthday

9/27/2020 Gold Star Mothers Day

LABOR DAY TRIVIA

1. When was the first Labor Day parade held in the United States?
2. Where was the first Labor Day parade held in the U.S.?
3. Which US President signed the bill making Labor Day a National Holiday?
4. Who is considered to be the "Father of Labor Day" in America?
5. When is Labor Day celebrated?
6. Which state was the first to officially make Labor Day a state-recognized holiday?
7. How many people work in the United States?
9. T/F: Americans worked 12-hour days seven days a week during the 19th century.
10. T/F: Labor Day in Canada began in 1972.

ANSWERS: (1) September 5, 1882 (2) New York City (3) Grover Cleveland
(4) Peter McGuire (5) The first Monday in September (6) Oregon
(7) Over 155.7 million people (8) At least 400 (9) True. (10) False. 1872.



Independence Day

July 4th



ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
DECLARATION
EQUALITY
FIREWORKS

FOURTH
FREEDOM
HOTDOGS
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY
NATION

PARADE
REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
THIRTEEN
UNITED



Shasta County Veteran Services Office

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Visit our webpage for printable checklists.

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REMINDER

REMINDER

CAUTION



**FACE MASK
REQUIRED**



Social Distancing

For your safety
please keep
2 metres (6 feet)
from one another
in queues



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF LOCAL VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS BY ADVOCATING ON THEIR BEHALF TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL APPEALS COURT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THEM WITH BENEFITS AND SERVICES TO WHICH THEY MAY BE ENTITLED.